

VZCZCXRO5850  
OO RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH  
DE RUEHKL #0121 0560001  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 250001Z FEB 08  
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0579  
INFO RUEHCU/AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE 0072  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 1058  
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE 0016  
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE VIENNA AU IMMEDIATE  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE 0225  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHPS/USOFFICE PRISTINA IMMEDIATE  
RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 000121

SIPDIS

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FOR KOSOVO MONITORING GROUP AND EAP/MTS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/20/2018

TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [UN](#) [UNMIK](#) [YI](#) [EU](#) [MY](#)

SUBJECT: MALAYSIA WILL RECOGNIZE KOSOVO, BUT TIMING STILL  
AN ISSUE

REF: A. STATE 17470

[1](#)B. KUALA LUMPUR 111 - MALAYSIA WELCOMES KOSOVO  
INDEPENDENCE

Classified By: Political Section Chief Mark D. Clark, reason 1.4 (b and  
d).

[1](#)1. (C) In the absence of the Ambassador and the Foreign  
Minister, Political Section Chief delivered ref A demarche to  
the Malaysian Foreign Ministry's acting Under Secretary for  
European Affairs Mahinder Singh, who is also Under Secretary  
for the Americas. Polchief praised Malaysia for its February  
20 statement welcoming Kosovo's independence (ref B), and  
urged Malaysia to immediately take the next step by extending  
official recognition. Mahinder responded that "the decision  
is already there" for Malaysia to recognize Kosovo. Timing  
of recognition, however, remained undecided. "We must be  
careful," Mahinder added, "we too have an embassy in  
Belgrade," alluding to the mob violence directed at the U.S.  
Embassy there.

[1](#)2. (C) Mahinder said Malaysia continued to watch carefully  
the decisions of European nations regarding Kosovo, and  
polchief provided an update on the supportive positions of  
European countries per ref A. Mahinder noted that decisions  
by Middle Eastern countries, including Kuwait, also would  
influence Malaysia's judgment on the timing of recognition  
and he inquired if we had additional information on the  
positions of Arab nations. On the practical side, Mahinder  
asked what formal, mechanical steps the U.S. had taken to  
convey its recognition, and to whom in Kosovo, and whether we  
could share the text of recognition documents. We  
immediately forwarded these questions to the Kosovo  
Monitoring Group.  
KEITH